

From: Mary Walter [<mailto:mtrwalter@shaw.ca>]  
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 9:11 PM  
To: senator.wiggins@sen.ca.gov  
Cc: MLPAComments; wwrattcliff  
Subject: MLP Act , coastal stewardship

Dear Senator Wiggins,

I understand that you chair the Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee which has the MLPA under its umbrella.

I am a member of the Ratcliff family who has owned a section of the coast just north of Anchor Bay since the 1920's.

I am writing to express my disappointment with the stewardship proposals suggested so far for the North Coast section of Calif. . It seems that what you have done is place as protected areas only those places which have been protected for a long period of time already by private land owners. Humans have not been allowed to denude the wild life on the shore in these privately protected stretches of the coast, so animal and plant communities have remained abundant and varied. The areas where public access has been allowed along the coast are usually nearly bare of living plants and animals because human predation has not been managed or checked. To continue to leave these public areas unprotected will do nothing to increase the biodiversity and abundance of life those areas.

You need to devise a strategy to upgrade these depleted areas. Perhaps closures for a number of years of these public stretches of coast line could allow them to regenerate. And you need to figure out how you are going to enforce your closures and other policies.

In any case you need to have good science behind your desire to restore and protect the biodiversity of the coastal habitats. And you need to have ways to measure whether or not your efforts are working, You need specific, measurable objectives.

To me it looks like a continuance of the status quo with no increased protection for the coastal environment and in fact , landowners who have been protecting small stretches of the coast will have an increased burden as they try to protect their rich environments from human predation as their sections of the coast will now be officially highlighted as being exceptionally rich in sea life.

The sad thing to me is that you say you want to protect and enhance the coastal environments but your legislation will not do this, you are simply ratifying the status quo which is not your stated intent nor what people want.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ratcliff Walter